

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. – 36. (Cancelled).

37. (Currently Amended) A material for formation of carbon dioxide external preparation comprising (1) a base agent comprised of an elastic polymeric three-dimensional network structure impregnated with a viscous material containing at least a thickener, an acid and water, and made to contact with the skin during use, and (2) a viscous reactant containing a carbonate and thickener at least and made to contact with the base agent during use so as to generate carbon dioxide,

wherein bubble formation of the said generated carbon dioxide is suppressed by the said elastic polymeric three-dimensional network structure and the said viscous material to the extent that the said bubbles are difficult to be identified with naked eyes,

wherein the thickener in the viscous material is at least one selected from the group consisting of sodium alginate, propylene glycol alginate ester, carrageenan, carboxyvinyl polymers, polyvinyl alcohol and polyvinyl pyrrolidone,

the acid in the viscous material is at least one selected from the group consisting of malic acid, succinic acid, sodium dihydrogen phosphate, carboxyvinyl polymers, citric acid, L-ascorbic acid and tartaric acid, and

the elastic polymeric three-dimensional network structure is a nonwoven cloth.

38. (Previously Presented) The material for formation of carbon dioxide external preparation according to claim 37, wherein the reactant is a viscous material further containing a thickener and water.

39. (Previously Presented) The material for formation of carbon dioxide external preparation according to claim 37,

wherein the reactant contains water and at least one thickener selected from the group consisting of sodium alginate, propylene glycol alginate ester, carrageenan, carboxyvinyl polymers, polyvinyl alcohol and polyvinyl pyrrolidone,

and the carbonate is sodium hydrogencarbonate.

40. (Previously Presented) The material for formation of carbon dioxide external preparation according to claim 37,

wherein the formulation of the said reactant is selected from a viscous liquid, an ointment, a cream, a paste and a fluid hydrogel, or the said reactant comprises a nonwoven cloth impregnated with the formulation thereof.

41. (Previously Presented) The material for formation of carbon dioxide external preparation according to claim 37,

wherein the blending amount of acid in the viscous material of the base agent is in a range of 0.05 to 30wt%, and

wherein the amount of the carbonate contained in the reactant is in a range of 0.5 to 10 parts by weight per 1 part by weight of the acid contained in the base agent.

42. (Previously Presented) The material for formation of carbon dioxide external preparation according

to claim 37,

wherein the amount of the viscous material impregnated into the polymeric three-dimensional network structure is not less than 0.01g per square centimeter.

43. (Previously Presented) The material for formation of carbon dioxide external preparation according

to claim 37,

wherein the thickness of the polymeric three-dimensional network structure is in a range of 0.1 to 10 mm.

44. (Currently Amended) The material for formation of carbon dioxide external preparation according to claim 37,

wherein the reactant is supported on a sheet-like or bag-shaped support or a support in the form of a sheet.

45. (Previously Presented) The material for formation of carbon dioxide external preparation according to claim 44,

wherein the surface of the support on which the reactant is supported that is on the atmosphere side in use is covered with a covering material that is impermeable to or has low permeability to carbon dioxide.

46. (Previously Presented) A carbon dioxide external preparation, characterized by being obtained using the material for formation of carbon dioxide external preparation according to any one of claims 37 through 45,

wherein bubble formation of the said generated carbon dioxide is suppressed by the said elastic polymeric three-dimensional network structure and the said viscous material to the extent that the said bubbles are difficult to be identified with naked eyes.